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Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Majestic God, Creator of many different races and colors in the human family, we ask for love as inclusive as Your love and attitudes as free of prejudice as You have shown in Your care for all people.

This month as we gratefully recognize the importance of African Americans in our history, remind us of the truth that Dr. Martin Luther King expressed that "the content of our character" is the highest goal we can achieve. So many outstanding black Americans have risen to prominence in our Nation's history because of the content of their character.

We thank You for Phillis Wheatley, who, in the 18th century at a very young age, achieved international fame as the first black woman poet. We remember women's rights activist and abolitionist Sojourner Truth and civil rights heroine Rosa Parks. We also remember Richard Allen, who, at the dawning of the 19th century, mobilized the black community in Philadelphia and formed the first independent black denomination. We praise You for distinguished athletes like Jackie Robinson and educators like George Washington Carver.

As we work today, may these principled Americans be our examples. Let our words, thoughts, and actions reflect the content of Your character. Thank You for being our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable HARRY REID, a Senator from the State of Nevada led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Repub-

lic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BROWNBACK). The majority leader.

SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, the Senate will spend the day in executive session deliberating, once again and for the 10th day, the nomination of Miguel Estrada to be a circuit judge for the DC Circuit. Indeed, today will be a very full day. I envision a protracted session extending late into the evening. Roll-call votes are expected in an effort to make progress toward confirming this nominee in order to fill this judicial vacancy.

There is an empty courtroom and a backed up docket awaiting this judge. I hope my colleagues will cooperate so that this ready, willing, and able nominee can report for work at the DC Circuit courthouse.

I ask unanimous consent that a letter to the President dated February 25, 2003, signed by 52 Senators, stating that they "express the strong, majority support in the United States Senate for Miguel Estrada," be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

UNITED STATES SENATE,
Washington, DC, February 25, 2003.
The Hon. GEORGE W. BUSH,
The White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue,
N.W., Washington, DC

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: We write to express the strong, majority support in the United States Senate for Miguel Estrada, your nominee to the United States Court of Appeals to the District of Columbia Circuit.

Mr. Estrada's professional accomplishments and personal achievement are truly impressive. He graduated magna cum laude from both Columbia College, where he was

elected to Phi Beta Kappa, and Harvard Law School, where he served as an editor of the Harvard Law Review. He clerked on the Second Circuit Court of Appeals and the Supreme Court of the United States. Miguel Estrada served with distinction as an assistant U.S. Attorney in the prestigious Southern District of New York, rising to Deputy Chief of the Appellate section, and in the Solicitor General's office during both Republican and Democrat Administrations where he argued fifteen cases before the Supreme Court.

It is no wonder Mr. Estrada received a rare, unanimous rating of "well qualified" from the American Bar Association, what many of our colleagues call the coveted "Gold Standard."

Mr. Estrada's professional successes are even more remarkable in light of his compelling personal story. After emigrating from Honduras at the age of seventeen, he reached the pinnacle of his profession by overcoming a speech impediment and mastering a second language. These are daunting challenges for anyone; they are particularly impressive when one's profession is the practice of oral advocacy before the nation's highest court.

Despite his obvious qualifications and remarkable personal story, we have been unable to obtain fair consideration on the Senate floor for Mr. Estrada's nomination. Nevertheless, we, the undersigned majority in the United States Senate, commend you for your outstanding choice, and will continue to work diligently to ensure Mr. Estrada receives a simple up or down vote on the Senate floor.

Sincerely,

Mitch McConnell, Zell Miller, Bill Frist, Conrad Burns, Norm Coleman, Lisa Murkowski, Pete Domenici, Joe Kyl, John Cornyn, Jim Bunning, Judd Gregg, Arlen Specter, Orrin Hatch, Robert Bennett, Mike Crapo, Jim Talent, Michael B. Enzi, Lindsey Graham, George Allen, Susan Collins, Ben Nighthorse Campbell, Ted Stevens, Lamar Alexander, Wayne Allard, Richard Shelby, Mike Dewine, Craig Thomas, George V. Voinovich, Richard G. Lugar, Jeff Sessions, John Ensign, Rick Santorum, John E. Sununu, Elizabeth Dole, Don Nickles, Pat Roberts, James Inhofe, Saxby Chambliss, Peter Fitzgerald, Trent Lott, Thad Cochran, Kay Bailey Hutchison, Chuck Hagel, Larry E. Craig, Gordon Smith, John McCain, Sam Brownback, Kit Bond,

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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